

SILC Executive Committee

February 4, 2016

Members Present: Mary Olson, Monique Casbeer, Lori Gaustad Bill Harant (staff)

The meeting was opened at 3:30 PM

The meeting began with a discussion of membership issues. Bill noted that there were 4 members who needed to renew their memberships because their term had expired. He has been working to get these applications. Most of these members were appointed mid-term for another member who left the council. There are also 4 vacancies on the SILC from members who have termed out or resigned. Three applications have been received and Bill is working with another applicant from Lewistown who has been having technical issues getting her completed application sent in She has been asked to use standard mail to send it.

The new State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) was next up for discussion. Public Meeting dates and locations are in place and have been added to the State and SILC e-calendars. WebEx call-in numbers have been set up for each location and fliers advertising the meetings have been created. The CILs will host the meetings in their conference rooms except for NCILS which will hold their meeting at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls. Jon Ebelt from the DPHHS Public Affairs Office has been sent a press release which will be published closer to the dates of the meetings. The press release will be targeted in the media to each city where the meetings will be held (Helena, Billings, Great Falls, and Missoula). Some corrections are needed to the fliers and once this is done they will be sent to the SILC and CILs for distribution.

Additional discussion took place over what sort of questions should be asked to gather information at the meetings for the new SPIL. It was the consensus that broad questions should be asked initially then narrow the questions down to gather more specific information. They should be about what do people with disabilities need and how can that be achieved? Also how can people with disabilities be best served? It was suggested that SILC members and the CILs could use their networks of friends and associates to come up with questions for consideration. These can then be mailed to the office. It was also decided that the two broad questions should be along the lines of:

- 1) What do you need to successfully live independently in the community?
- 2) What are your barriers? Why are they there?

The due date for comments and questions on the SPIL will be March 15.

Lori will get info about the SPIL meetings to her PLUK connections. Monique will access her connections through NAMI and other networks.

The Committee (primarily Mary and Bill) will develop a letter to send out by next Wednesday, February 10 to send out through SILC members to their individual networking groups explaining

the purpose of the SILC and what the SPIL is about. It will be sent to Rosemary Hughes first to make sure it is readable and understandable by those with cognitive disabilities.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:45